Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1 to 13. Cancelled.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A conveyor system to move an article along a predetermined path, comprising one or more workstations, said workstations including robotic arms independently adjustable to operate upon the article on said belt, a conveyor extending along said predetermined path between said workstations, said conveyor having an endless belt entrained about a pair of supports spaced apart along said path, a support surface on said belt to receive said article and a drive mechanism to move said belt relative to said supports along said path, said drive mechanism including a reversible servo motor to move said belt in either direction along said path and to position said belt relative to said workstations said support surface having a pair of abutments positioned on said belt to engage oppositely directed ~~surfaced~~ surfaces on said article and inhibit relative movement between said article and said belt along said path.

Claim 15. (Original) The conveyor system according to claim 14 wherein said article comprises a microtiter plate.

Claims 16 to 18: Cancelled.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The conveyor system ~~for moving an article along a predetermined path between one or more workstations, the system comprising~~ of claim 14 wherein:

- ~~an~~ said conveyor belt ~~extending~~ extends between a drive pulley , connected to said drive mechanism, and an idler pulley, said belt including ~~an upper, article supporting surface~~ a lower

, pulley engaging surface;

- and wherein said system includes a support structure for said belt and said pulleys~~; and~~

~~- a drive mechanism for driving said drive pulley;~~

~~wherein said article supporting surface of said conveyor belt includes a pair of abutments for receiving said article and for maintaining said article in position as said belt moves the article along said predetermined path~~.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 14 wherein upper edges of said abutments are bevelled for guiding said article onto the belt.

Claim 21. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein said support structure includes a pair of side rails that extend along the length of said belt and rise above the article supporting surface, whereby said article is maintained on said belt as the belt is moved.

Claim 22. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein said pulley engaging surface includes a plurality of cogs for engaging complementary ribs extending from said drive pulley.

Claim 23: Cancelled.

Claim 24. (Original) A conveyor system to move microtiter articles along a predetermined path, the system comprising a pair of workstations, a conveyor extending along said predetermined path between said pair of workstations, said conveyor having an endless belt entrained about a pair of supports spaced apart along said path, a support surface on said belt to receive said articles and a drive to move said belt relative to said supports along said path, said support surface having a pair of raised abutments positioned on said belt to engage oppositely directed surfaces on said articles and inhibit relative movement between said articles and said belt along said path, wherein said drive comprises a servo motor to position said belt relative to said workstations and wherein said servo motor is reversible to move said belt in either direction along said path.

Claim 25. (Original) A conveyor system according to claim 24 wherein each of said workstations includes a robotic arm, said arms being independently adjustable to operate upon said articles on said belt.

Claim 26. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein said belt provides planar surfaces extending between said abutments to engage and support a bottom surface of said articles.

Claim 27. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein said robotic arm places and

removes said articles between said pair of abutments on said belt.

Claim 28. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein said servo motor is controlled by a controller for positioning said articles on the belt in desired locations along said path.

Claim 29 (New) The system of claim 19 wherein at least one of said abutments on said belt includes a registration means for monitoring the position of said belt as it moves.

Claim 30 (New) The system of claim 29 wherein said at least one abutment includes a magnet and wherein said system includes a magnetic detector.

Claim 31 (New) The system of claim 19 further including an article loading means and an article discharge means.